

## VOTING ON THE SILVER BILL.

**THE HOUSE APPARENTLY IN ANSE.**  
THE WARNER BILL ON ITS FINAL PASSAGE IN THE HOUSE—THE EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER OF THIS STRANGE MEASURE EXPLAINED.

The House of Representatives took up the Warner Silver bill yesterday. The previous question was called on the first two sections fixing the weight of the gold and silver coins and the sections were passed. The third section was voted on, but not disposed of. The action of the House is placed in a startling light by a letter from the regular correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Washington describing the character of the bill. The measure proposes, in effect, to make the Government buy all the silver, American or foreign, offered to it by private owners, issuing certificates therefor good for duties and taxes. The profit, which will be about eighteen cents on the dollar, will go to the owners. The Government is to be forbidden to buy on its own account. Mr. Morton, of New-York, made a strong speech against the bill yesterday.

**THE ACTION OF THE HOUSE.**  
THE VOTING ON THE BILL—TWO SECTIONS DISPOSED OF—MR. MORTON'S ABLE SPEECH.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The discussion of the Warner Silver bill in the House of Representatives, now drawing to a close, has attracted less attention than the importance of the measure entitles it to. A few remarkably good speeches, like those of Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Reed, of Maine, and Mr. Fort, of Illinois, and the little five-minute protest by Mr. L. P. Morton to-day, have been listened to attentively. They have been read with interest and widely commented upon; but many others who have addressed the House on the bill, and especially those who have supported it, have talked about almost every other branch of the financial question more than that touched by the measure, and have only rehearsed the old arguments, not even freshening them up now and then with an original idea. Possibly the indifference which the House of Representatives and the country have shown in regard to this important subject is due to the well founded belief that the bill in question can never become a law, and that, therefore, it is not worth while to become excited about it. Its passage by the House even, without very material amendment, is doubtful after the votes of to-day, its adoption by the Senate more so, and its veto by the President certain.

The House got down fairly to the bill for the first time to-day. The first vote was on a motion offered by Mr. Killinger, of Pennsylvania, to lay the bill upon the table. This was lost by 109 in the affirmative to 126 in the negative. Of those who voted against this motion at least twenty are opposed to the bill as it stands, but refused to assist in its slaughter in order that they might have an opportunity to offer amendments that would make it acceptable to them.

The previous question was then ordered, and a vote taken on the first section, which enumerates the gold coins of the United States and fixes their weight. It was adopted by 11 majority. The only peculiar feature of this section will be noticed later.

The second section of the bill enumerates the silver coins of the United States and fixes their weight. It includes the standard dollar, and omits the trade dollar. Considerable discussion arose on an amendment to this section offered by Mr. Kimmel, of Maryland, providing that 460 grains of standard silver shall be put into the dollar. The most notable speech was that of Mr. L. P. Morton, who made an earnest protest against the whole scheme embraced in this bill. Mr. Morton spoke only five minutes, but what he said was crowded full of sound practical sense. His experience with financial problems, and his ideas, will make him a most valuable recruit to the small company of men in the House who are able to take the lead in the support of sound financial measures. Of course Mr. Kimmel's amendment was defeated, and also one offered by Mr. Belford to the third section, confining the deposits of silver bullion in the Mint for coinage into dollars to that produced by American mines.

An amendment moved by Mr. Calkins, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase silver bullion at the market price and coin it into silver dollars on Government account, was lost by one majority, and pending an attempt to get another vote upon it the House adjourned.

**OBJECTS OF THE BILL.**  
UNLIMITED REMONETIZATION OF SILVER—THE GOVERNMENT TO BE SWINDLED OF ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY—ALL THE SILVER IN THE WORLD TO BE EMITTED INTO AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The most important features of this Warner bill and the only ones which have provoked debate are as follows:

1. It makes the silver dollar weighing 412½ grains a "unit," as well as the gold dollar weighing 258½ grains.
2. It authorizes the free coinage of silver bullion into standard dollars for the benefit of the depositor.
3. It provides for the redemption of subsidiary silver coins in legal-tender money.
4. It requires the Secretary of the Treasury to receive silver coin and bullion on deposit and to issue certificates therefor on the same terms on which he is now required to receive gold coin and bullion.
5. It stops the coinage of standard silver dollars on Government account.
6. It directs the President to reopen diplomatic negotiations for the establishment of a common international mint ratio between the values of gold and silver.
7. It makes no further provision for the coinage of the trade dollar.

What the author of the bill means by proposing to enact that the gold and silver dollar shall each be a "unit" he alone probably knows. The law as it now stands in the statute book declares that the gold dollar "shall be the unit of value," and is intelligible, but to declare by statute that one of the coins of the United States shall be a gold or silver dollar, "or unit," is about as sensible as to enact that there shall be in a certain division of the Post Office Department twelve clerks, "or a dozen." Congress cannot make a silver or gold dollar either more or less than a "unit," but it may make either or both a "unit of value," although to attempt to make two things of unequal value, like 258½ grains of gold and 412½ grains of silver, each equivalent to a third or a dollar, violates one of the fundamental axioms of geometry. The object of the author of the bill unquestionably was to remonetize silver, and this he has effectually done in other sections of his bill; but the declaring a dollar of either or both metals to be a "unit" by no means does it. These features of the bill were adopted by the House to-day.

**A BLACK INQUIRY PROPOSED.**

The second and fourth features of the bill must be treated together. They open the mints of the United States to the free coinage of silver bullion into dollars, each of which is worth 15½ cents more than the metal it contains, and lest the speculator in silver shall not be able to get his returns promptly on account of the incapacity of the mints to manufacture the coins, it directs the Secretary of the Treasury to give them certificates for the silver bullion which shall be receivable at its face value for all dues to the Government. In other words the bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to any owner of silver bullion, American or foreign, one dollar for every 412½

grains of the metal which he can buy in the London market for \$142 cents.

Who would be benefited by such a law as this? First, a few hundred owners and producers of silver bullion in this country, a class composed almost exclusively of capitalists, bankers and speculators. The advocates of this bill are loud in their professions of devotion to the interests of the people as against capital. How honest they are the people may judge by their support of this measure, which requires the Secretary of the Treasury to buy silver with the people's money and pay 18 per cent more than the market value for it. It may be said that the Government pays nothing for the bullion, but simply issues a piece of paper for it which has cost nothing, and that when the certificate is redeemed it will be paid in the same bullion for which it was issued. Very true, but nobody will present the certificate for redemption so long as they are worth 18 per cent more than the metal he has changed for them, and the only way that the certificates will return to the Government will be in the form of taxes and duties. When they come in for those purposes the silver which they represent will become the property of the Government, and as this bill denies to the Government the privilege which it accords to every man on the face of the globe, of having the silver which it owns converted into dollars, the only way in which that part of its receipts represented by silver certificates can be made available will be by the sale of the bullion in the market, and at the price which it will command there. By this process the Government actually becomes the purchaser of silver at 18 per cent above its market value, which in the end it must sell again for no more than its market value.

Nor does the loss of the Government stop with this sale. The purchaser of the bullion has the right under the provisions of the bill to make immediate deposit of the silver bullion he has just bought in the Treasury, and receive certificates for it, which in return will come back to the Treasury in the form of taxes and duties on imports. Thus the Government might be called upon to shoulder a loss of 18 per cent on the same lot of bullion many times in a single year, and at the end of the time have no more bullion on hand than after the first deposit was made. The loss would appear in the reduction of the proceeds of its receipts.

Secondly, the people of Great Britain, France, Germany, and every other European nation which is now wrestling with the silver question and trying to devise means to escape the enormous losses incident to the depreciation of silver, would be greatly relieved by the passage of this bill. Very few people in this country appreciate the loss which English trade is now yearly sustaining on account of the fall in the price of silver, or the effect that loss is having upon public opinion concerning standards of value in that country. Referring to this subject recently, *The London Economist* said: "Uncertainty must attend on many if not on most trading ventures, but when to that uncertainty an additional risk of loss, ranging from 5 per cent to 10 per cent on each cargo, is added, it is no wonder if the most cautious find themselves deceived in their calculations, and merchant after merchant admits that in lieu of profit he has for some considerable time reaped nothing but loss from trade with silver-silvering countries."

But the remedy which the Editor of *The Economist* has suggested proves more than any bare statement can, into what straits Great Britain has been brought by the condition of the silver market for the last four years. Estimating that Germany still has about \$15,000,000 or about \$75,000,000 worth of silver still to sell, and believing that the existence of this amount, which may be thrown on the market at any time, is one of the principal causes of the present depression in the price of silver, he suggests that the Bank of England be authorized by the Government to purchase one-third or one-half of Germany's surplus stock and lock it up, on condition that Germany agrees to sell no more for the next five years. This is a desperate remedy for a desperate case.

But the author of the Warner bill offers to these countries a way out of all their difficulties. He not only proposes to open the doors of the United States Treasury to the silver of all the world, but to pay a premium of 18 per cent to foreign owners of the metal to pour it into this great reservoir. In 1870 it was fashionable for the inflationists in and out of Congress to accuse those who had been instrumental in bringing about the demonetization of silver and those who opposed its remonetization after it had been demonetized of having been bought up with "British gold." Of course this was absurd, because the closing of the mints of the United States to the coinage of silver since the decline in its price, has been one of the causes of the present distress in Great Britain, and has been decried by English business men and writers on finance ever since the subject began to be generally discussed. But what shall be said now of the men who not only propose to help England out of her trouble by taking out of the markets of the world the surplus silver that is causing so much disaster to the business of that country, but to pay the owners of it 18 per cent more than they could get for it in Lombard-street? Of course they have not been bought up with British gold.

The provisions for the redemption of subsidiary silver coins and for the reopening of diplomatic negotiations for the establishment of a common mint ratio between the values of gold and silver, are about the only redeeming features of the bill. It is remarkable that the author of such a measure should ever have allowed them to become a part of his measure.

**THE EFFECT OF THE BILL.**  
The plain effect of the bill, should it become a law, would be to pile up in the Treasury an immense hoard of silver. The \$75,000,000 worth now held by Germany for sale would be in New-York in less than a month. The mints of the United States, producing nearly as much more every year, would empty their entire product into the hands of the Government. Every ounce of silver due to any European country in its foreign trade would irresistibly flow into this same reservoir.

On the other hand we should lose an equal amount of gold. The German Government would send its silver certificates in New-York for gold, and take the latter away, and we should rapidly become a monetary metal silver nation, and the disasters that have come upon India, threatening to produce public and private bankruptcy, would be experienced here. Having taken the whole burden of redundant silver upon our own shoulders, European nations would politely decline to assist us in carrying it even though we should be crouching beneath the load. The whole theory of this bill is wrong, and its object dangerous. The supporters of it are inflationists. They believe, or pretend to believe, that the people who have little or no capital or capitalists, if the volume of the currency can be largely augmented, they would prefer that the inflation should be accomplished by the simple printing of greenbacks, but failing to see in the greatest sacrifices, destroy our present system of currency, derange foreign and domestic trade, and cripple the industry and enterprise, in order to (to them) cheaper currency, and that they may gain the applause of their constituents whom they have led into the grossest error on this subject.

**GENERAL WASHINGTON NEWS.**

**A SPEECH BY MR. THURMAN.**  
AN ATTACK ON THE FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS AND PARTICULARLY ON MR. DAVENPORT—AN UNFORTUNATE INTERRUPTION BY RANDOLPH.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Senator Thurman's speech to-day was only remarkable for its lack of originality. It is not worth a detailed synopsis. As the Senator embodies the essence of the Democratic cause in his own person, it was expected that he would endeavor to sound the "key-note" of the party policy, but this he failed to do. It is a matter of some surprise that a statesman of the universally recognized astuteness and ability of Senator Thurman should undertake a set speech

when he had nothing new or interesting to say to his audience. Mr. Thurman struggled at great length to prove that the deputy-marshals and supervisors laws are unconstitutional. There is room for a wide difference of opinion as to the merits of this portion of his remarks but as an unconstitutional law becomes operative whenever the proper department of the Government has passed upon it, there cannot be found in the assumption of unconstitutionality any reason why Congress should repeal such measures, and especially why the attempt should be made in an offensive and coercive manner.

Mr. Thurman's assault upon "Johnny Davenport" was neither so funny nor so vigorous as that of several previous speakers, although it was carried to great length, and was made the crowning feature of his speech. It consisted chiefly in reading from the printed testimony taken by investigating committees and in comments which were conspicuously unfair. Mr. Thurman asserted that very large sums of money drawn from the Government by Davenport had never been accounted for and had been retained by him. He essayed to bring some proof of this, and read from the testimony to show that in 1871 Davenport had been borrowing money to pay his personal expenses, while in 1876 he was living in a nice house in a good neighborhood and keeping a carriage. He was about to show something still more heinous on Davenport's part, but couldn't find the place. He gave a detailed statement of the sums expended for deputy-marshals in several of the Northern States as compared with the same expenses in the South, and assumed to find the usual evidence of Republican corruption in the comparison.

When he mentioned Jersey City, Senator Randolph asked leave to emphasize the statement, "With the greatest pleasure in the world," said Mr. Thurman as he took his seat. Mr. Randolph thereupon took with indignation the liberty of Mr. Thurman's use of money for deputy-marshals a district in his State which had for years given good Democratic majorities was turned into a Republican district. Senator Horner asked if there were not two Democratic candidates.

Mr. Thurman then said the colloquy had better come to an end. He paid his respects to the President, and then, in the way of argument, but in sheer denunciation, characterizing the logic of the veto messages as contemptible, Mr. Thurman has led his party into a sad dilemma, and evidently does not enjoy the distinction which is accorded him as a consequence.

**GLOVER AGAIN TO BE SURE.**  
A REAPPEARANCE—HE WANTS HIS BUREAU OF A REPORT, WHICH HIS OWN CONGRESS DID NOT PRINT, TO BE PRINTED NOW.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—In the XLVth Congress there was a Representative named Glover, from Missouri, who managed to achieve considerable fame by his explorations and investigations regarding the expenditures of the Treasury Department. After Mr. Glover ceased to be a Representative he published in *The Record* a speech in which he informed the country that he and his experts had succeeded in worrying to death Dr. Linderman, the Director of the Mint. Mr. Glover, in the hurry and confusion attending the close of the last session of Congress, succeeded in getting the House to pass a resolution ordering the printing of the mass of ex parte, false, irrelevant and worthless rubbish which he with the help of a corps of so-called "experts" more incompetent than himself, if possible, had gathered. A motion to reconsider the vote by which this resolution was passed was, however, immediately entered, and this motion was pending when the XLVth Congress expired.

Now plain Mr. Glover, citizen of Missouri, comes before the Printing Committee of the House with his belated rubbish accumulated in a previous Congress, and with which the Printing Committee of the present House has no more to do than it has with the manuscript of any other private citizen or of any other subject, and demands that it be printed before the House. Mr. Glover's demand, and will, in all probability, by a majority vote, comply with it. The matter is to be decided to-morrow.

**A DENIAL BY MR. STEPHENS.**  
NO INTENTION TO REBEL AGAINST THE CAUCUS, BUT AN INDIFFERENCE TO THE POLITICAL LEGISLATION.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Representative A. H. Stephens says that there is no truth in the published statement that he has informed the Caucus Committee that he will rebel unless he is assured that the Appropriation bills will be passed. Mr. Stephens says he is in entire accord with his party. He thinks the majority, especially the members from the South, hold the political measures to be matters of very little consequence in comparison with a number of commercial and industrial matters which demand Congressional action; and while he speaks for no one except himself, he favors a postponement of all political questions and action upon measures for the relief of the laboring population.

**WASHINGTON NOTES.**

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 15, 1879. The subscriptions to the four per cent refunding certificates since yesterday's report have amounted to \$1,000,000.

The President sent to the Senate to-day only one nomination, viz: Nathan S. Porter, of Nebraska, to be United States Indian Agent for the Fort Peck Agency, Montana Territory.

Baron Ernst von Mayr, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Austria-Hungary, was yesterday laid to rest in the President. The usual ceremonies were observed on the occasion.

Next Tuesday evening the President and Mrs. Hayes will give a reception at the Executive Mansion to a large excursion party visiting this city, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the Pennsylvania, Penn., in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The sub-committee of which General Durell was chairman who have had charge of the bill "Repealing the tax on sugar in the hands of producers," made a favorable report thereon, which was adopted by the full committee, and a recommendation in favor of its passage will be made to-morrow.

Mr. Orth, of Indiana, in the course of his able speech in the House to-day on the bill to limit the jurisdiction of the United States Courts in criminal cases where the United States is concerned, showed the growing tendency of the Democratic party to support the bill, and the United States, of which this bill was one evidence.

The delegation of Cheyenne Indians now in Washington to procure the consent of the Government to their return from the Indian Territory, were yesterday interviewed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at 3 o'clock to-day. Little Chief, the leader of the band, after the customary exchange of greetings, made a speech. There will be another talk at 10 a. m. to-morrow.

The House Committee on Agriculture met to-day.

The sub-committee appointed to inquire into the causes of pleuro-pneumonia among cattle, and the best means of preventing the same, reported to the full committee in favor of the bill introduced by Representative Hatch, of Missouri. The bill prohibits the transportation of cattle affected with contagious or infectious diseases, especially the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia, and for the purpose of preventing violations of the act, requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to select suitable localities, on all lines of railroad, river, or other State communication, that he may have information that the disease exists, and to appoint competent practical experts, who shall inspect all live cattle received for shipment or passing through their locality. It was decided to report the measure to the House with a favorable recommendation.

**A COLORADO RAILROAD SUIT.**

DENVER, May 15.—In the suit between the Denver and Rio Grande and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad Companies, growing out of the conflicting claims to the right of way through Arkansas Canon, to-day, the United States Circuit Court gave the Atchison Company leave to file a supplemental bill, and directed the Atchison Company to continue its construction upon its located line. The Court also held that, in view of the case, the road-bed of the Rio Grande Company should be supported by the cost of the cost of construction, justly computed; but the question of release raised by the supplemental bill must be first determined.

## THE LEGISLATURE BUSY.

**IMPORTANT MEASURES CONSIDERED.**

**A FAVORABLE REPORT ON GENERAL SHARPE'S BILL.**

**—THE SENATE COMMITTEE ACTING RAPIDLY ON THE FIVE-CENT FAIR BILL.**

General Sharpe's bill to protect Nassau and other down-town streets from the inroads of the elevated lines was reported favorably in the Senate last evening. The Railroad Committee of that body has, however, deferred the consideration of Mr. Galvin's five-cent fare bill to Tuesday next. Mr. Pomeroy has submitted a substitute for the Strahan bill, regarding civic appointments; in its amended form the bill has been ordered to a third reading. The amendment to make legislative sessions biennial instead of annual has passed the Senate. The Senate has concurred in the Assembly resolution to adjourn finally next Thursday.

**THE ELEVATED RAILROAD BILLS.**

**GENERAL SHARPE'S BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY.**

**—THE SENATE RAILROAD COMMITTEE DEFERS ACTION ON THE FIVE-CENT BILL.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

ALBANY, May 15.—The Senate Committee on Railroads met to-day, and without any discussion voted unanimously to report favorably General Sharpe's bill excluding the elevated railroads of New-York from Nassau and all other streets south of the City Hall which are not now included in the rapid transit routes. At the meeting of the Senate in the evening Senator Wagner reported the bill and Senator Wagstaff asked unanimous consent that it be at once considered, but Senator Jacobs, objecting, the bill was put regularly at the bottom of the calendar. Its friends will do all in their power to hasten its passage. The bill has been amended as follows:

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the exercise of any rights that may exist to cross at an elevation of any street which crosses the city and county and territory, or to take away any right to run upon Church-st.

The amendment was made so as to protect the Metropolitan Transit Company's rights if it still has any. The amendment will render necessary, however, the return of the bill to the Assembly for approval.

The Committee on Railroads reported favorably at the same time a railroad bill introduced by Senator Pierce, which is precisely similar to Mr. Braman's one in the Assembly authorizing the St. Nicholas Avenue Railroad to put tracks on Broadway north of Broadway-st. His bill has already been reported. It is believed that the bill will be passed. The bill would not doubtless have been ordered to a third reading to-day, but by dexterous maneuvering, the bill was brought to the hour of adjournment. The friends of the bill are highly incensed at this maneuver, and angrily declare to-night that they will again adjourn to-morrow if all other business has been laid aside.

**THE EXCISE BILL DEFEATED.**

**STRONG OPPOSITION MANIFESTED BY THE COUNTRY.**

**—FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.**

ALBANY, May 15.—Mr. Strahan made a last desperate attempt to-day to pass his Excise bill, applying solely to the Cities of New-York, Brooklyn and Buffalo. The bill was on the order of third readings, but before a vote could be taken amendments were offered to the bill by Mr. Husted and Mr. Sheard. Mr. Husted's amendments were accepted by Mr. Strahan, but Mr. Sheard's one was defeated by a vote of 50 to 59. The voting on the bill was postponed until to-morrow. Mr. Husted's amendments were accepted by Mr. Strahan, but Mr. Sheard's one was defeated by a vote of 50 to 59. The voting on the bill was postponed until to-morrow. Mr. Husted's amendments were accepted by Mr. Strahan, but Mr. Sheard's one was defeated by a vote of 50 to 59. The voting on the bill was postponed until to-morrow.

**THE LEGISLATURE BUSY.**

**THE BIENNIAL SESSIONS AMENDMENT ADOPTED.**

**—THE TRAMP BILL PASSED.**

**—FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.**

ALBANY, May 15.—The Senate passed to-day without debate the amendment to the Constitution providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature, which was introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Skinner in February last, and subsequently passed by that body. Senator Turner, of Lewis County, has been the chief advocate of the amendment in the Senate. The amendment received the votes of twenty-four Senators; four voted against, namely, Ecclesius, Harris, J. P. Pierce, Robertson; two Republicans and two Democrats. The proposed amendment, which was not a party test, will have to be submitted to another Legislature before it can be approved before it can be deemed an excellent example of the effect of experience in the Legislature, as many of the Senators who voted for the amendment this year twelve months ago voted against it.

The Senate also considered Mr. Strahan's bill providing for a commission composed of the Mayor, Controller, District Attorney, and the President of the Board of Aldermen, to select the best of the various departments in that city in case of the neglect for thirty days by the Mayor and Aldermen to select a President of the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Strahan called for a vote on the bill, and Mr. Husted declared that there was no chance of passing it at this late hour in the session, he intended to amend it so that it might pass. He then moved to amend the bill so that it should provide for the selection of the best of the various departments in that city in case of the neglect for thirty days by the Mayor and Aldermen to select a President of the Board of Aldermen.

**ELECTION BY MASTER MECHANICS.**  
CINCINNATI, May 15.—The following officers were elected by the Master Mechanics of Cincinnati to-day: J. N. Chapman, vice-president; Reuben Wells and J. N. Saunders, secretary; J. H. Seidman, treasurer; S. J. Hayes, clerk.

**THE AFFAIRS OF JOHN C. WEST & BROTHER.**

BOSTON, May 15.—John C. West & Brother, of Pittsfield, Mass., have been declared bankrupt. The assets of the firm are estimated at \$25,000. The liabilities are \$75,000. An order has been made of 25 cents on the dollar.

**A VERDICT OF \$500 FOR LIBEL.**

NEW-HAVEN, Conn., May 15.—In the libel suit against the *Connecticut* brought by George R. Keiser, which has occupied the attention of the Superior Court for four weeks, the jury gave a verdict for \$500 on each count to-day.

**WESLEY BISHOP TO PLEAD GUILTY.**

NEW-HAVEN, May 15.—In the case of Wesley Bishop, accused of poisoning his wife, it is announced, on good authority, that the State Attorney will accept a plea of guilty to the charge of manslaughter, rather than face conviction in the first degree.

**INSURANCE RATES SOUTH TOO LOW.**

ATLANTA, May 15.—The eighth annual meeting of the Underwriters' Association of the South will be held in this city on the 20th inst. The association is a strong force in the South toward correcting the existing demoralization in rates throughout this section.

**VERY FEW TICKETS GRANTED.**

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., May 15.—The granting of ram tickets in the town of Deer Park received a terrible rebuff by the Excise Board, which met to-day. The tickets were to be granted for the purpose of raising money for the town. The fee was from \$50 to \$500.

**A NEW TRIAL GRANTED AT BALTIMORE.**

BALTIMORE, May 15.—The motion for a new trial in the Jones case was granted this morning. The new trial was granted on the ground that the jury was not properly instructed in the case, and that the evidence was conflicting.

**KNIGHTS AT THE BANQUET-TABLE.**

BOSTON, May 15.—At yesterday's session of the Knights of Honor, a complimentary banquet was given to the visiting knights of the various lodges of the Supreme Lodge. Past Dictator Woodbury gave the visitors a cordial welcome, which was warmly responded to by the knights of the various lodges.

**THE MILLERS ADOPT A CONSTITUTION.**

CHICAGO, May 15.—The National Association of Millwrights, which met to-day, adopted a constitution. The principal features recommended by the speakers of the association were: 1. That the association should be organized on a basis of democracy. 2. That the association should be organized on a basis of democracy. 3. That the association should be organized on a basis of democracy.

Assembly's resolution for the final adjournment of the Legislature on May 22. The Senate also decided to take its usual weekly rest by adjourning from Friday to Monday next.

The Senate passed to-day Mr. Noyes's bill to suppress "tramps." As the bill had previously passed the Assembly, it now goes to a Governor. New-York's bill is a good example of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New-Jersey in an energetic attempt to lessen the number of tramps. The bill subjects to a term of not more than one year's confinement in a county jail or penitentiary. According to the place of residence of the tramp, the bill provides for a term of not more than one year's confinement in a county jail or penitentiary. According to the place of residence of the tramp, the bill provides for a term of not more than one year's confinement in a county jail or penitentiary.

The bill to authorize the issue of certain bonds and the bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, with reference to judgments of corporations, are ordered to a third reading. Agreed to.

The Governor to-day returned, with objections, the bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, with reference to judgments of corporations, are ordered to a third reading. Agreed to.

The State Board of Audit to-day awarded Terrence O'Neill Donnelly, of Brooklyn, \$8,000.

Mr. Ecclesius to-day introduced a bill providing that the Metropolitan Transit Company be authorized to construct and operate its railroads, as provided for in the law passed May 22, 1872.

**REDUCING THE INTEREST RATE.**

**AN EFFORT MADE TO RENDER SIX PER CENT THE LEGAL LIMIT.**

**—BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.**

ALBANY, May 15.—The Assembly at its afternoon session debated for over two hours the Senate bill reducing the legal rate of interest from 7 to 6 per cent. Intense interest was shown in the bill by the members from the purely farming districts, and they earnestly favored it. Many members who represent such communities declared privately that they thought the bill an unwise one, but that they intended to vote for it because they would not dare to face their constituents if they should oppose the measure. Strong speeches were made against the bill by Speaker Alford and Erastus Brooks, and Mr. Husted advocated the speedy adoption of an amendment proffered by Mr. Van Valkenburg, which would permit the making of a contract for the payment of 7 per cent interest. Messrs. Weston, Sheard and Travis urged the passage of the bill. The supporters of the bill were able to pass the bill. It would doubtless have been ordered to a third reading to-day, but by dexterous maneuvering, the bill was brought to the hour of adjournment. The friends of the bill are highly incensed at this maneuver, and angrily declare to-night that they will again adjourn to-morrow if all other business has been laid aside.

**THE PROPOSED TAX COMMISSION.**

**THREE NAMES SELECTED—MR. WHEELER AMONG THE NUMBER.**

**—BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.**

ALBANY, May 15.—The selection of members of the commission to revise the taxation laws of the State has proved a more onerous task than was anticipated by the members of the Finance Committee of the two houses of the Legislature. The names of over forty persons were suggested as members of the commission. Repeatedly meetings have been held by the committees for the purpose of selecting three members. To-day, however, the Finance Committee of the Senate held a meeting, and after drawing up a bill for the appointment of a commission, selected the following named as its members: Sherman S. Rogers, of Buffalo; Abram S. Hewitt, of New-York; and George D. Briggs, of New-York. Mr. Hewitt, it is believed, will be able to pass the bill. It would doubtless have been ordered to a third reading to-day, but by dexterous maneuvering, the bill was brought to the hour of adjournment. The friends of the bill are highly incensed at this maneuver, and angrily declare to-night that they will again adjourn to-morrow if all other business has been laid aside.

**THE GERMAN TARIFF BILL.**

**—BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.**

BERLIN, Thursday, May 15, 1879.

The Bundesrath has passed the bill authorizing the provisional levying of the duties proposed by the tariff bill.

**THE SOUTH AMERICAN WAR.**

**GREAT ENTHUSIASM IN CHILI.**

PANAMA, May 7.—Direct communication by cable and the transatlantic line, between Peru and Europe, is for the present interrupted, Admiral Robledo, of the Chilean squadron, having cut the cable cable at Iquique, and taken the Chile and on board of his vessels, in order to place himself in direct communication with his Government at Santiago. The war operations in the South for the last week is very brief. Pisagua has been bombarded and destroyed, causing a loss of about \$1,000,000. The launches at Molendo were sunk, several shots sent into the town, done no damage, however, and one coal ship, the Glen Dale, was relieved of her cargo. Iquique was bombarded for the space of a half hour or so,